

~~SECRET~~Clark Task
Force File

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Administration)

SUBJECT: Status of Inspection in the Security Office
by the Clark Committee CIA Task Force

1. The Clark Committee CIA Task Force, composed of Colonel Eugene Miller, Colonel Herman C. Lane, and Mr. John L. McGruder, visited the Security Office in the course of their inspection on 4 January 1955 and were occupied as follows:

2. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, the Committee was briefed by the Director of Security on the policies under which the Security Office operates. They were also given a brief description of the functions of each of the major components of the Security Office, consisting of five staffs and three divisions. The Committee was furnished with a roster of the senior supervisory personnel of the Office and a chart showing the organizational structure of the Office through section and unit level. The Committee indicated an interest in clearance procedures, indicating that they wished to be made fully knowledgeable of the methods and procedures whereby the Security Office insured against penetration of Agency roles by Communists. They indicated a specific interest in statistics showing specific reasons for each termination which has been made for security reasons. They also indicated an interest in determining what measures were taken to protect the rights of individuals, as well as the interests of the Government. One question raised specifically by a member of the Committee was whether unwarranted secrecy was not used in the guise of security, citing as an example the usual reluctance of an employee to state that he works for CIA when questioned. They also indicated that they thought the Agency would be better served by an informative article being published in a magazine of broad circulation, setting forth authoritatively the general structure and functions of the Agency, in order to eliminate the gossip, innuendoes, and conjecture which are prevalent today. They raised the question as to whether there was a need for as full and complete an investigation on one type of employee as on another, asking why it was necessary to resolve all questions of foreign relations or associates of a man who might be assigned to the Comptroller's Office, when such a resolution would be unquestionably necessary for a person in an operating office. They also questioned whether this Office accepted a previous investigation of another agency in clearing an individual for CIA.

3. From 1:10 to 1:40 p.m., the general briefing by the Director of Security and the Deputy Director of Security continued, principally in

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the form of discussions on questions raised by the inspectors.

4. From 1:45 to 3:30 p.m., the Committee was briefed by the Chief, Physical Security Division, on the functions and activities of that Division. The Committee elected to confine this briefing to a description of functions and activities by the chief of the Division and made no further inspection of the Division, except to view a display of technical equipment used as defensive security measures. They indicated particular interest in (1) who established the security standards for the facilities, (2) whether consideration had been given CIA hiring its own guard force, and (3) whether it would not be feasible and economical to establish a central pool of escorts to escort visitors between receptionists and offices, rather than to have that task performed by members of the particular office being visited.

5. From 3:30 to 4:40 p.m., the Committee was briefed by the Chief, Personnel Security Division, and by the chief, Clearance Branch/Personnel Security Division. The Chief, Personnel Security Division briefly outlined the functions of the three branches of his office, namely Interrogation Research Branch, Clearance Branch, and Employee Activity Branch, and then turned the Committee over to the Chief of the Clearance Branch who briefed the Committee in detail on clearance procedures, policies, and standards. The Committee expressed considerable interest in what standards were used in the evaluation of security reports and what training and guidance were given and what controls were placed upon the appraisers and evaluators.

Sheffield Edwards
Director of Security

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